

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. patent application. Claims 17 and 18 are allowed. Claims 2, 6 and 9-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-18 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Rejections of Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8 and 13-16 based on *Varasi*

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,493,390 issued to Varasi et al. (*Varasi*). Claim 2 includes allowable subject matter, and thus is not anticipated by *Varasi*. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Therefore, claim 1 now includes allowable subject matter, and thus is not anticipated by *Varasi*. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In addition, Applicant has amended claim 13 to include limitations similar to those in claim 2. Applicant submits that the claim 13 now includes allowable subject matter, and thus is not anticipated by *Varasi*. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 3-5, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1. Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. Claim 16 is based on claim 1. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the



claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 7, 8 and 13-16 are not anticipated by *Varasi* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17 and 18 are allowed.

In addition, claims 2, 6 and 9-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which has been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 now includes allowable subject matter. Claims 6 and 9-12 depend from claim 1, and thus include the allowable subject matter of claim 1. Consequently, Applicant has not rewritten claims 6 and 9-12 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that claims 1 and 3-18 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. Applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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